

Grapewine News



COLORADO RIVER HISTORICAL
SOCIETY MUSEUM

The Rose-Baley Massacre on the Beale Wagon Road

by Mary Ragusa



In 1857 the United States government hired Col. Beale to survey a new wagon road from Albuquerque to the Colorado River. The intent was to create a safer passage to California. The Apache's in the southern part of the state made the southern route very precarious. Also, there were disputes between the government and the Mormon settlements which impacted passage of wagon trains in Utah. The U.S. government was anxious to get the western land settled with Americans. Looking at the 37th parallel as a possible passage was tantamount to economic success for expansion of the country.

The Rose-Baley party was formed by the two largest parties in two formerly separate groups. It provided more protection for all. It was a very large, well-outfitted party with 400 plus head of cattle. These stout pioneers came from Illinois and Iowa. Generally, Midwesterners used the northern Oregon

Trail, but this group chose to use the Sante Fe. In June 1858, the group arrived in Albuquerque. Talk around town lead the leaders to hook up with a man named Sevedra who claimed to have a good knowledge of the new road, and who could lead them to the Colorado River.

The facts are that, although Sevedra was a guide on the initial laying out of the road, Beale found that he was a drunk, totally incompetent and not capable of leading their group. Second, there was no road ready for wagons. Sevedra had only been on the initial exploratory trip!

The party ran into difficulties all along the route caused by lack of water, Indian attacks, as well as trying to use a trail which wasn't ready for wagon travel.

By the time the party reached the Union Pass, Route 68 from Bullhead City to Kingman over the Black Mountains, the animals, supplies and the number of wagons was greatly reduced. The survivors were in desperate condition. The party decided to have the animals and most of the men ride ahead to the river to give relief to the animals and for the men. They started cutting the large trees along the riverbank to build rafts which would allow them to float the wagons across the river.

The local Mojave Indians came to their camp regularly. It was located in what is now the Colorado River Nature Center south of Bullhead City. Knee high grass and water made the area a wonderful place to camp. Several days into the project, a 12 year old

Continued on pg2

Continued from pg1

girl, Sally Fox, who was at the camp with her stepfather, a doctor, observed that the Indians were approaching camp by crawling through the bushes. Since this seemed abnormal, she alerted the men. The following skirmish killed Sally's stepfather, injured another man and led to the killing of the entire Bentner family who tried to escape back to the mountains. The pioneers had guns, so the outcome was not good for the Indians who lost at least 12 warriors. Sally was struck in the shoulder with an arrow. She did not die. Later historians believe that the Mojave cousin tribe, the Paiutes, were part of the attack party because they used arrows while the river dwellers used mostly spears.

The pioneer party was so traumatized by the attack, that the entire train retreated to the Black Mountains and ultimately all the way back to Albuquerque! Later they used the southern route. Sally's family established a nut orchard in Northern California. Today her dress with the arrow tear is on display at the orchard's sales office.

This incident led to the decision to build a fort to protect the area as well as the crossing. Camp Mohave became Fort Mojave by 1857. It was closed during the Civil War (1861-65), but then was reopened to operate until 1890's. The government then turned it into a school for the local Indian tribes which operated until 1932.

Later, the Beale Wagon Road became a major east-west transport route we know as Route 66 and Interstate 40, but the experiences suffered by the Rose-Baley party discouraged use of this trail for some time after.



WORD PUZZLE

Rose-Baley Massacre

```

S W L P X G E P A S S A G E Q
R T U E K U V E S A I S C Z L
O I E Q L I P U N N H K S V I
V N T P X D Y I D M B X K A M
I C Z I F E M I N O I N U S P
V O O G L A A E A O A Q D S M
R M O A L N T E L B R W H A W
U P B S N M O H R T A E D R S
S E R O S E A E E E T L G G D
J T V U K N V S N R D A M O G
U E K T Z I N Z S Y W N C Y N
Y N Q C R Y A X E A B R Z P U
R T X R I Z O R Y O C F W M C
P K V M C H S A L L Y R R U H
D E T T I F T U O J N G E J V
    
```

- | | | |
|------------|-----------|-------------|
| ANIMALS | BALEY | CATTLE |
| GRASS | GUIDE | INCOMPETENT |
| INDIAN | MASSACRE | OREGON |
| OUTFITTED | PASS | PASSAGE |
| RIVERBANK | ROSE | SALLY |
| STEPFATHER | SURVIVORS | UNION |

May 2024 Crossword Puzzle answers: BHC - Then and Now

```

E D R O C E R A E A A Z H A O
X T S Q R F R G R N Y D C X V
F U A E S T D E Y C F Y I W P
J W V C I M H M I I W M R V N
M I R F I P E R D E S I G N I
R E A B I N R P S H O Y N A C
D C T C T L U C T T K G S S S
T I E S X Z T M Z U J R I E T
H D S T Y B L W M O U A G R J
R L X C N S U G U O O P N U H
X Y A D O A C R T T C E P S T
M P E T G V N H R H S V O A W
K G G D B E E M P Y Q I S E D
C A P D Y N B R E V J N T R K
O S L O B M Y S Y R C E S T L
    
```

EVENTS CALENDAR

All events are at the museum unless otherwise stated

No events are scheduled for July and August

In review

On May 16th the museum held a Chamber Mixer for the Laughlin and the Bullhead City Chamber business owners. It was a fun evening with great food provided by our museums volunteers. We have some wonderful cooks and we love to have potlucks. It was a great time had by all who attended. Thank you to all who participated.



Courtesy of Mohave Daily News

On May 22nd we had Debbie Miller-Marschke, a member of the Mojave Desert Heritage and Cultural Association at Goff's Schoolhouse Museum. She did a re-enactment of Olive Oatman and her tragic story of the murder of her family by the Yavapai Indians who captured Olive and her sister Maryann which they later traded to the Mojave Indians. The Mojave Indians treated her with more respect than the Yavapai had.

Debbie was dressed as Olive in her well-known blue dress and her hair and tattooed chin. Debbie has done much research regarding Olive and brings out emotions from herself as well as the audience (I do believe I saw tears). Olive was born in 1837 and died in 1903 a free woman.

There were many questions and talking and pictures with the audience after the presentation. Thank you Debbie and we hope to have you return to our museum for another talk. The Colorado River Museum also has books on Olive Oatman's journey.

We also had a special guest visitor during the Olive Oatman event, Virginia Sutherland, a founder of the Colorado River Historical Society. We are lucky we have had strong women to aid us in the history of our western town.



Courtesy of Mohave Daily News

PRESIDENTS CORNER

Hi Happy June

Hope everyone is having a great summer even though it's hot. Things have slowed down quite a bit and also a lot of our members have gone back home because they were snowbirds so we will be happy when they come back in September or October. So, our new hours at the museum are 10:00 to 2:00 and if no one comes by 1:00 we close. We are hoping though to have a few more people to enjoy the museum for the summer.

The Olive Oatman presentation was spectacular. We had a pretty good show of people, but her monologue was extremely amazing and ended up in our local newspaper and I think everybody went home very satisfied with the program by Debbie. What a fabulous job!

Remember if anybody has any questions or needs things answers please call me at 928-219-2582 and thank you everyone for your memberships and your support in our Colorado River historical society and museum. See you next month.

If you are interested or know anyone interested in becoming a member of The Colorado River Historical Society, we need to carry on the traditions and history of this great town. Please come in and talk to one of our volunteers.

Sincerely

Karole Finkelstein
President

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Colorado River Historical Society Museum is seeking volunteers. If you enjoy history and want to learn more about the area, the society needs you. This is a chance to meet area visitors from all over the world and form friendships with a wonderful group of volunteers. Many of our volunteers are part-time residents and retirees. Hours are flexible and duties are as easy or challenging as you would like.

Examples of the types of volunteer we need:

Docent	Handyman
Gardener	Data Entry
Teachers	Marketing
Fundraising & Event Coordinators	

AROUND THE HOUSE



The Ocotillo

Ocotillos (*Fouquieria splendens*) are arguably one of our most iconic plant species in Arizona. Perhaps you have been here long enough to know how bizarre the ocotillo is. Not only is its form totally unique, but even the family, the Fouquieriaceae, seems to have been dropped from outer space (yes there are a total of 11 species in this family, of which ocotillo is just one).

The life history of the ocotillo is also quite complex. This species has hedged its bets with several survival strategies: the ability to drop leaves upon any hint of drought (an ocotillo can grow and shed leaves several times a year), the ability for the plant to photosynthesize through the trunk when leaves drop, the ability to wake up from dormancy quickly and spread new roots when any moisture hits the ground, the arrangement of the stems that help the plant to shade itself. This plant is made to survive.

Many, many species depend on the ocotillo for food: nectar feeding insects like native bees, and butterflies, and hummingbirds depend on the dense spikes of reddish orange, tubular blooms that usually emerge in February in the low desert, or as late as May in the grassland and upper elevations, and can last a few months. In cultivation and in the upper elevations there is often a second flush of blooms in late summer or fall. Hummingbirds are extremely dependent on wild ocotillos as it is one of the only species that has a dependable and copious flush of blooms even in the driest years. The flowers are followed by seeds that are enjoyed by many seed-eating species of birds (like finches) and small mammals (like the antelope ground squirrel which also eats the flowers). Plants can get to an eventual height of about 15'-20' tall, and about 8'-10' wide.

Come see the Ocotillo's on the Cactus Hill in our backyard "Educational Gardens".

Pioneer Family Tips:

courtesy of the Mohave Museum of History & Arts

Freckles - To Remove

Mix together 2 ounces lemon juice (or 1/2 drachm powdered borax) and 1 drachm sugar. Let stand in a glass a few days. Rub on the face occasionally.

Dysentery

1 teaspoon of Blackberry Brandy will help to stop dysentery and rubbing a little bourbon or brandy on the gums of a teething baby works wonders.

To Eradicate Silver Tail

Pyrethrium powder to eradicate silver tail (or fish) put in duster and apply to places where the silver tails frequent

Recipe Corner

Tennessee Ernie Ford – Pea-Picker's Corn Bread

1 cup Self-rising corn meal
3 tbsp. Self-rising flour
1 egg, beaten
2/3 cup buttermilk
1 tbsp, water
1 tbsp melted shortening (bacon drippings add flavor)

Add in items can be: corn, diced jalapenos, honey or cheese.

Heat oven to 450 degrees. Grease thoroughly and heat (in oven) small black iron skillet, corn stick or muffin pans. Measure all ingredients in order listed in a mixing bowl and stir to blend thoroughly. Pour batter into greased pan and bake 20 minutes for sticks, 25 to 30 minutes for skillet or muffins. Serve immediately with butter.



**COLORADO RIVER
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MUSEUM**

1239 Highway 95 PO Box 1599
Bullhead City, AZ 86429 Bullhead City, AZ 86430

Phone: 928-754-3399
Email: CRHSmuseum@outlook.com
Web: coloradriverhistoricalsociety.org/
Hours of Operations:
Tuesday—Saturday 10:00am - 2:00pm
(last admittance 1:00pm)

Grapevine News Editor - Laurie Thompson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Karole Finkelstein – President
- Barbra Brandt – Vice-President
- Ellen Brown – Secretary
- Carla Lucas – Treasurer
- Laurie Thompson – Director
- Robbie Adams – Director
- Denise Vallon – Director
- Jim Lucas - Director
- Mary Wall – Director

Mission Statement

The mission of The Colorado River Historical Society shall be to operate a museum to promote interest and knowledge concerning the history of the Lower Colorado River area, most specifically the Tri-state area.

GIFT SHOP NEWS

Featured items

Attention history buffs, off-roaders and nature enthusiasts.

We have a new poster sized Mohave Trail Map now available in the museums retail store. The map marks all the historical landmarks, campsites and restrooms. Size approximately 18” x 24”.

Price \$12.00



SEEKING COLLECTION DONATIONS

We are always looking for any artifact that is pertinent to our Tri-state area. This includes, but is not limited to, photographs, family histories, mining equipment, Davis Dam, Native Americans, steamboats, ranching, fossils, explorers, highways, historical maps, churches, service clubs and businesses.

- ◆ We cannot accept an artifact with stipulations on it such as it must be displayed in a particular way or time period.
- ◆ We do not accept loans.

Give us a call at the museum if you have an artifact or historical item you would like us to consider.